As regards the *kist* months, you say that you are quite sure that the Land Revenue Commissioner will agree with you that the *kist* months should be changed. But I am afraid that he holds different views.

The member pointed out that it would involve considerable loss if the tenants were obliged to sell their paddy at low rates merely for payment of tax.

DEWAN : You will have to store it for about a year.

The member said that few of the tenants had any paddy to store for the following year and that the Ag. Land Revenue Commissioner who knew local conditions would support his prayer.

DEWAN : What can I do when you and the Land Revenue Commissioner differ ?

Then, as regards the Anchal Office, you want it to be transferred near the Nalpatennisvaram temple. But what about the low caste people ?

MEMBER : They can go there.

DEWAN : You may have no objection, but the temple authorities may object to it.

MEMBER : They will not object.

DEWAN : Then I will have the matter inquired into by the Anchal Superintendent when he next visits Shertallai.

As regards the opening of a Savings Bank in the Anchal Office, the Anchal master there gets only Rs. 7 a month and it is not customary to open Savings Bank in such offices. Whether the status of the office can be raised will depend upon the amount of business transacted. That too, Mr. Nagan Pillai will enquire into.

The other points are noted.

**116. Needs of the Shertallai taluk.**

MR. N. R. KRISHNAN (*Member, Nominated*), said that the want of means of communications in the Shertallai taluk had been brought to the notice of the Government from the very inception of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and even before that. As the previous speaker, Mr. Madhava Karta, had already spoken about the need for roads and canals in the taluk, the member did not dwell on that subject. He, however, thanked the Government for putting in hand the Alleppey-Shertallai road.

He next spoke about the want of uniformity in the methods of valuing improvements on *jenmom* lands and fixing the share due to the tenants. Shertallai was one of the chief centres for cocoanut plantations. But most of the planters were not owners of the lands. They often got lands on demise from the *jenmies*. But when the tenants were asked to vacate the lands, the civil courts could not with any pretensions to uniformity fix the value of the improvements due to them. The presiding officers therefore fixed the value according as they deemed fit. Ordinarily, the value of bearing trees was fixed at the income for 100 months. But there was a different ruling by the High Court reported in 24 T. L. R. According to that decision, a bearing tree, for which a sum of Rs. 40 could be obtained under the old practice, would fetch a value of only Rs. 7 or Rs. 8. That was hard. It was known to all that cocoanut cultivation was very difficult in Shertallai. For more than 6 months in the year, the trees had to be watered. It was hard that the fruits of such hard labour should go to the *jenmies*. In some cases, the value of the improvements was fixed even in the documents demising the lands. Such value was fixed in a manner favourable to the *jenmies*. The tenants could not but agree to the terms dictated by the *jenmies* so long as the former enjoyed the lands belonging to the latter. In view to redress the grievances, a committee consisting of *jenmies* and *kudiyans* should be appointed to enquire into and report on the matter and a circular should be issued by the High Court on receipt of such report. If that procedure was not feasible, legislation should be undertaken in the matter. Similar legislative measures had been passed, *e. g.*, Regulation X of 1010 regulating the interest payable on loans, and the Vakils' Regulation.



LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Page 1

Educational facilities available in the Shertallai taluk were not adequate. There were only 6 schools in that taluk, against 30 in the Tiruvalla taluk. The percentage of literacy in English in the Shertallai taluk was only 2, while it was 10 in the other taluk. In view to afford greater facilities, 2 more English Schools should be opened in Shertallai.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishnan, the first part of your representation, namely, the improvement of the means of communication, was dealt with in my reply to the last speaker. Then you talk of introducing uniformity in the methods of valuing improvements on land and giving the share due to tenants. I think it is purely a matter of usage and customary law for interpretation by the civil courts and not a matter in which the Government can interfere in any way. If you want any special legislation in the matter it is for you to move your representatives in the Legislative Council to interest themselves in the matter when the Council takes up the question of the Jenmi Kudiyan Bill.

You want more schools in Shertallai. It is not the policy of Government to open more English Schools. But there is not the slightest objection to private schools being opened; of course, to obtain recognition, you will have to apply to the Director of Public Instruction who is competent to sanction or otherwise to deal with the matter.

**117. Needs of the Vaikam taluk.**

MR. VARKI AIPORA (*Member, Vaikam taluk*) first spoke about the need for the improvement of the Pallipuram-Kadutturutti road. The portion of the road between Nerekadavu and Turuvelikkunnu had been encroached upon by adjacent land-owners and converted into wet lands or canals. These encroachments should be removed and the road made fit for traffic.

The Chemmanakari and Akkarapadam *karas* in the Vadakkemuri *pakuthi* were water-logged, being bounded by the Ittipuzha river and the Vembanad backwater, and there were no schools there or proper means of communication. The inhabitants found it difficult to go to Vaikam to purchase provisions or to attend courts and schools. There was a distance of half a mile from the Ittipuzha river to the Vaikam-Udiyamperur road, and a distance of a mile between the Ittipuzha river and the Chemmanakari Excise Station. There were no pathways connecting those places, but there was a ferry service at the Ittipuzha crossing. Private lands were used as public thoroughfares for going to Vaikam. But very often the beaten traces through the private holdings were obstructed by the owners of the lands and the travelling public often experienced great difficulty. A road should be opened starting from the Chemmanakari Excise Station and leading to the Vaikam-Udiyamperur road. If a road could not be constructed, at least, a bridle path should be opened.

There was heavy boat traffic from the Ittipuzha river to the Murinjapuzha river, but the waterway between the two was very circuitous. Boats had to be taken from Ittipuzha to Vettikattumukku and from there to the Murinjapuzha river. There was formerly a *todu* from the Muzhikkal Excise Station to Panjipalam connecting the rivers. Portions of it had been silted up and portions encroached upon by the adjacent land-owners. If the encroachments be removed and the canal deepened and widened, communication between the two rivers would be rendered very easy.

Although the Government had spent some money in repairing the Kaniyan *todu*, it was not sufficiently deep to allow the free flow of water and consequently the adjoining fields were being damaged by the stagnation of water. In view to prevent such damage and make the *todu* more useful to the agriculturists, it should be further repaired and deepened.

Much damage was caused to the paddy lands at Kandanad and Udiyamperur by the stagnation of water there. In view to drain such water, a drainage canal to the *kayal* at Mankayil *kadavu* should be cut by connecting the existing canals at the eastern and western ends of the fields.

Two bridges were required, one at Murinjapuzha and the other at Poottotta on the Vaikam-Udiyamperur road, which was much used for motor traffic and by pedestrians. There were *junghar* services at both the places but much delay and inconvenience were casued to the travelling public at the crossings. The ferrymen were

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly